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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

First Named Inventor	: Thomas W. BAKKER et al.	
Appln. No.	:	
Filed	: July 18, 2001	Group Art Unit:
Title	: PIPE HANDLING APPARATUS AND METHOD	Examiner:
Docket No.	: W422.312-6	

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

SENT VIA EXPRESS MAIL

Assistant Commissioner for Patents
Washington, D.C. 20231

Express Mail No.: EL800727299US

Sir:

Prior to calculation of the filing fee and examination please amend the above-identified application as follows:

IN THE ABSTRACT

Please add the following abstract on a separate sheet. (marked up version attached in Appendix).